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Jarrett Sailor adds International Flavor to Crew

ABOARD USS JARRETT – Gas Turbine Specialist Third Class Mutlu

Uzgoren, 27, has been onboard USS Jarrett for only six months, and has been in the U.S. Navy for only a year. New Sailors onboard is not unique for Jarrett. What is unique is the fact that Uzgoren is Turkish. “I have been in the United States for three years. I joined the Navy because I believe every immigrant who comes to the United States should serve in order to realize the freedoms and learn the American culture, because there are people from all over in the Service,” Uzgoren said.

Uzgoren left his family in Turkey three years ago, coming to the United States to seek opportunities for study and employment in the world’s richest economy. His family worries about the distance, and wonders when he can call. He calms their concerns by remaining in contact with them. “It is hard, because I have not seen them in a long time. I spoke with them on the phone before we left [for deployment]. And technology is very helpful. I send emails and pictures to my family, and to special people overseas. This ship is very good for remaining in contact with my family,” Uzgoren said.

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UZGOREN 2/2/2

The ship is excited about his arrival onboard. “It’s a good deal that he’s here,” said Cdr. Bob Hospodar, Commanding Officer, USS Jarrett. “He’s an interesting man, and he’s very mature, which is good for our younger Sailors,” Hospodar said.

Uzgoren will use his time in service as a means to achieve U.S. citizenship. He is thoughtful about what it means to achieve citizenship, and he believes that every immigrant who comes to America should serve in order to gain a better understanding of the nation, its cultures and the English language. “The Navy is very helpful, because I get the legal help I need to achieve American citizenship faster. I hope that new laws established by the President will allow me to obtain my citizenship in about six months. Being in the Navy has helped me with my English, and I have been able to absorb more of the American culture, because the people around me are from all over the United States. I meet people from the Northeast, from the South, from the Midwest, all over. This has helped me experience more of America,” Uzgoren said.

Uzgoren lived in New York prior to his change of station to USS Jarrett. He lived only two blocks away from the World Trade Center towers when the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 took place, and he is insightful about the ship’s tasking in support of the Global War on Terrorism. “It was a terrible time, and many people were hurt. My country has been fighting terrorism for over 10 years, and it is very difficult to fight. I hope we don’t see another tough moment like [September 11, 2001] here in the homeland,” Uzgoren said.

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UZGOREN 2/2/2

Uzgoren understands the importance of his work, and performs his duties with pride. “The people around me help me a lot. This is a very difficult job. My training was very difficult, especially since I was still learning English. My job is important, because what we do makes the ship move. This ship is 20 years old, so it’s a lot of work for my division, main propulsion,” Uzgoren said.

Petty Officer Uzgoren vows to try and return home to Turkey to visit his family, once his citizenship is complete, following the ship’s returns from deployment.

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For further questions, please contact ESG-1 Public Affairs Office at 619-545-4428 or esg1pao@peleliu.navy.mil.